

2023 MATP Third Quarter Report

April - June 2023

Overall

MATP continued to expand and grow the program during the third quarter. Many public awareness events took place that helped us build awareness of MATP and assistive technology. The team again performed record numbers of demonstrations. We welcomed a new team member, Erin Shannon, LMSW, who is an AT Specialist focusing on Youth and Community Living.

Annual Progress Report and State Plan

MATP submitted the updated State Plan for Assistive Technology on June 26, 2023.

Advisory Council

The AT Advisory Council met in March. Three new AT Advisory members were identified this quarter, thus creating the 51% of council members who identify as a person with a disability, that also do not serve in another capacity on the council.

State Level Activities

Open Ended Loan, Acquisition, & State Financing (Aimee)

MATP completed 5 open ended loans for a total savings of \$372 for Michigan taxpayers this quarter.

Device Reassignment/Refurbishment/Repair

MATP completed 23 device reassignment activities this quarter for a savings of \$3519 for Michigan taxpayers.

Device Demonstration and Short-term Loan (Aimee & Sarah)

MATP completed 37 short term loans og 99 devices this quarter and 225 device demonstrations to 315 participants.

148 New AT items were added to the MATP Device Library in the 3rd quarter, with a focus on Outdoor/Gardening, Camping and Hearing AT, and purchasing enough inventory items to stock 3 “Go Kits” for AT Specialists to take to demos and events. Highlights include:

- Expandable garden hoses
- Dual wheel wheelbarrow
- Camping hammock swings for children
- Comfort Duett and PockeTalker listening devices and sound amplification
- Sensate relaxation devices

State Leadership Activities

Public Awareness

MATP Public Awareness activities included: outreach at public events, outreach through phone and email, and content created on topics such as: Tech Tuesdays, disability awareness, disability pride, demonstrating assistive technology, online training, services MATP offers, and important PSAs in the disability community. MATP has created a consistent active presence online, and program staff have developed an in person presence at expos, and other events throughout each week.

Website

The MDRC website continues to be updated on a regular basis. Plans for adding additional inventory to the lending library site were made during this quarter, along with a plan to increase interaction through the site, by adding in a reuse section of the site in the 2024 fiscal year.

Information and Assistance

110 information and assistance activities were logged into the data collection system over the 3rd quarter.

Training (Aimee)

MATP conducted trainings reaching 683 people during the quarter.

MATP held an accessibility training series for all staff at MDRC. During the training we discussed in person and virtual meeting accessibility, digital accessibility, accessible forms and registration, and social media accessibility. This training met the AT Act ICT training requirements.

MATP staff conducted 13 trainings with Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA) and their subcontractor (TransDev) during the quarter. The training focused on disability awareness, and included best practice suggestions to improve rider/driver interactions, as they relate to the experience of various types of disability. The content of the training was based upon the lived experiences of the presenters, and CATA and TransDev staff were regularly encouraged to ask questions and participate. 356 public transit employees engaged in this training. During the training, attendees were made aware of MATP and how AT use can impact travel; the updated 21st Century AT Act emphasizes an increased effort toward program interaction with transportation, MATP is excited to include these educational opportunities as a first step.

Other training topics this quarter included included:

- AT for Trauma (MAF)
- AT for Youth (Wayne County AT/AAC)
- AT for Youth (Wyandotte, Madison Center)

Focus Area Work

Community Living / LTC

MATP sent in a letter of intent to Michigan Health Endowment Fund this quarter for a grant that will be submitted next quarter to provide funds for AT for community living to older adults and people with disabilities with barriers to community living in the Thumb area of Michigan and the NE lower peninsula.

Augmentative Communication

MATP's partnership with Origami Rehabilitation is ongoing. MATP has noted an increase in requests for speech communication device

demonstrations, and is looking to bring an AT Specialist with knowledge of AAC devices to the team beginning in the second half of the fiscal year. An attempt to hire an AAC Specialist for MATP was not successful this quarter. Four qualified candidates responded to the posting, four were interviewed and ultimately of those four candidates, 3 individuals rescinded their participation in further interviews and one individual was determined to not be a good fit for the team overall.

AT for Crafting and Art

MATP worked with Disability Network Northern to host an Art & Play Day Event in Alpena, MI. MATP made connections with local art studios and gave insight on the accessibility of their programming. This quarter, MATP presented at the Marquette Community Resource and Healthcare Forum, along with attending the Marquette Community Resource Fair and having a booth. MATP has also connected and has presented to the Marquette ISD, Snowberry Heights living apartments, and Bay Cliff Health Camp in the UP.

We traveled to Muskegon County for demos on arts and crafts.

AT for Gaming

MATP attended Comic Con and had a booth to raise public awareness of MATP and AT devices for gaming. MATP presented and demonstrated the Mightier game for a team of support staff for students with disabilities at Madison Center in Wyandotte, MI. This demonstration of how gaming can assist with Mental Health has piqued their interest for borrowing Mightier devices to test out with the entire school to be used in the classrooms. MATP has continued its partnership with Mary Free Bed, offering gaming demonstrations and technical assistance. In addition, we have increased our outreach efforts to provide demonstrations and training to more organizations across the state. MATP worked with Disability Network Northern to host an Art & Play Day Event in Alpena, MI and had various board and video game adaptive equipment.

AT for Mental Health/Neurodiversity

Planning for iPad use in the CEI Community Mental Health System Medical Detox Program occurred in this Quarter. The Detox Program has persons

needing medical detox for several to 10 days or so, and during that time, the program wants participants to use their time in ways that will be of use to them when they leave the Detox program.

10 iPads, cases, and headphones have been provided under an MOU for the Detox Program to use. The Program has generated a security and individual use policy to govern and protect the MATP devices. We are also discussing outreach after the detox portion of their recovery to make accessibility and productivity demos easy to accomplish for graduates based on their recovery plans.

The Detox Program chose 19 apps for inclusion on each iPad. The apps don't require internet access to operate, reducing risk to the resident during a critical phase of their recovery. Three of the apps have a large number of multiple versions, and staff are trying to determine which version of each of these 3 apps is part of the iPads at the Med Detox program. Most of the apps are either ones MATP has demoed before or are easy to demonstrate. The 3 with multiple alternatives are more complex and have somewhat unique possibilities depending on the variation, hence the importance of learning to demo the exact app that is on the iPad. Within a couple of weeks of determining those variations, a practice demo will be done with a voluntary resident who is doing well. If this goes well, regular demos will be scheduled that fits into the cycle of the detox program.

Staff conducted a very successful presentation on AT and Self-Determination at the CMHA Annual Self-Determination Conference in May. The attendance was more than the 80 chairs in the presentation site and was well received. All the sessions were recorded and there have been individual presentation accolades recently. The recording and slides will be put on Social Media during the 4th quarter. A presentation on AT and policy/governance inclusion will be submitted for the CMHA and Recon Conferences in the early 4th quarter.

AT for Outdoor Recreation

This quarter, MATP presented at the Marquette community resource and healthcare forum, along with attending the Marquette community resource fair and having a booth. MATP has also connected and has presented to the Marquette ISD, Snowberry Heights living apartments, and Bay Cliff Health Camp in the UP. MATP is continuing their partnership with Disability Network Eastern Michigan and planning four outdoor recreation

events over the next quarter. MATP will be providing EBikes, and other outdoor recreation items for these events. MATP is also continuing their MOU with Mary Freebed for gardening AT. MATP has created partnerships with Carhartt workshop in Detroit and Hunt to Heal in Bitely. MATP has done a presentation for the AuSable Valley Audubon in Oscoda. MATP is continuing their outreach for outdoor recreation, with that outreach there has been conversation with Seney Wildlife Refuge about an MOU and about hosting accessible events with MATP in the future.

AT for Parenting/Childcare and Youth

MATP Youth Program has had changes in roles for staff focusing on youth AT. Erin has joined the team and has spent the quarter being trained on youth and parenting AT in inventory.

MATP continues to make connections and provide trainings to the Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) and Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) in each region throughout the state. Trainings provided include information on AT for Youth and MATP services. MATP's connections this quarter were in Wayne, Monroe, Midland, Saginaw, Bay, Marquette, Ingham and Alger Counties. MATP also participated in a transition activity at Holt High School this quarter. MATP facilitated two virtual trainings for Wayne County AT/AAC Coaches. Training feedback was very positive and the participants were excited to learn about our program and the different types of activities we have AT for. MATP traveled to the Upper Peninsula (UP) to provide in person training, demonstrations, and events to staff, students, and young adults.

MATP held another training with Michigan Alliance for Families on AT for Trauma. MATP also had a table at the Michigan Alliance for Families annual conference, during which MATP services were outlined for participants and demonstrations of various youth-focused items were provided. MATP held a lunch and learn and trained staff on AT for Recreation and MATP services in Wyandotte, MI. This connection has brought on planning a series of AT demonstrations and activities for the students during the summer program next quarter. During the quarter we had conversations with families and organizations that serve families of children with disabilities. These families voiced frustrations of the school system and the lack of AT assistance and support within the schools. We are continuing the conversation with these families to support them with our program's services within those gaps.

MATP has connected with other organizations to learn more about youth resources and other gaps and barriers for youth and parents. A connection has been made with the Michigan Department of Education office of Career and Technical Education (CTE). CTE is interested in MATP presenting to their staff and participating in more conferences to provide trainings on resources for students with disabilities. MATP continues to attend AT cohort groups, committee groups, and the Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT) meetings each month.

Aimee Sterk has joined Ottawa Area Intermediate School Districts's Inclusive Technology Workgroup and will be participating as both a parent of students with disabilities and as an AT specialist.

Indigenous Communities

Areas for growth for working with indigenous populations are being considered and no new partnerships have occurred in the third quarter. A search for professional development is ongoing.

Collaborations for AT

In an effort to increase awareness of MATP, as well as provide technical assistance, Kellie Blackwell joined the STEMM Up advisory council, after having received an invitation to do so from Dr. Connie Sung with Michigan State University's Rehabilitation Counseling program. STEMM Up is a newly launched program with focus on careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine for individuals with disabilities.

Another area MATP collaborates is with the GM Zero Barriers work group. In addition to the bi-monthly meetings held by MRS and GM staff, Kellie Blackwell has been invited to further discussions in focus groups, following the bi-monthly meetings.

AT Public Health

The second quarter's efforts for public health focused primarily on activities where MATP could reach a vast number of individuals such as events, expos, and trainings. Public health related outreach continues to have a focus on addressing social isolation and how AT can have a positive impact on those experiencing it.